DEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Investigation of)
 MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED)
Regarding Recent Rolling Blackouts.)

DOCKET NO. 6330

2002 OCT 10 P 4: 0;

ORDER NO. 19698

Filed Oct. 10, 2002

At 8:00 o'clock A.M.

Karan Himsel.

Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy KAREN HIGASHI

Chief Clerk, Public Utilities Commission State of Hawaii.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Investigation of)

MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED) Docket No. 6330

Regarding Recent Rolling Blackouts.) Order No. 19698

<u>ORDER</u>

I.

By Order No. 9978, filed on October 18, 1988, the commission opened this docket as a result of the situation on the island of Maui where customers of MAUI ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED (MECO) were experiencing recurring rolling blackouts. Specifically, these rolling blackouts occurred on a monthly basis, from June 17, 1988 to October 11, 1988. MECO reported that the cause or causes of the blackouts were due to its problems with its own generating facilities and not being provided sufficient firm power from its purchased power source, Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S).

Thus, we opened an investigation to determine, among other related matters, the following:

- The cause or causes of MECO's recurring rolling blackouts;
- Whether the expenditures for maintenance in the power plants, transmission, and distribution systems have been maintained pursuant to utility standards;

- 3. The reliability in the immediate future of the delivery of HC&S firm power and the impact to MECO's system should the HC&S purchased power not be available to meet MECO's peak requirements;
- 4. MECO's plans and programs to prevent future rolling blackouts; and
- 5. Whether a penalty provision should be published in its tariff for failure to restore service within a reasonable period of time.

Order No. 9978 also made MECO and the DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

(Consumer Advocate) parties in this proceeding.

On November 22, 1988, MECO filed its testimonies and exhibits. The evidentiary hearings were held on December 8 and 22, 1988.

On January 31, 1989, the Consumer Advocate filed its statement of position. On February 14, 1989, MECO filed its written brief.

II.

Upon our review of the record, we find that it would be very arduous for the commission to address and determine any of the above-referenced issues at this point in time. In particular, since the evidentiary hearings on this matter were held almost fourteen years ago, it is quite apparent that the evidence, information, and/or record of this docket are now stale and no

longer reliable. Moreover, due to the passage of time, the positions of the parties, as set forth in their written briefs submitted in 1989, may have changed as well. We are also unaware of any recent submissions to the commission that confirms or accentuates that MECO's recurring rolling blackouts problems in 1988 still exists.

Accordingly, we find that it would no longer be viable, beneficial and in the public interest to pursue the investigation. Therefore, we conclude that this docket should be closed.

III.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS that this docket is hereby closed.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii this 10th day of October, 2002.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

ayne H. Kimura, Chairman

Kawelo, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

(RECUSED)

Gregg J. Kinkley, Commissioner

s N. Nakagawa Commission Counsel

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^{&#}x27;We do, however, commend the parties for their time and efforts to assist the commission in this investigation.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Order No. 19698 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
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WILLIAM A. BONNET VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC. P.O. Box 2750 Honolulu, HI 96840

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EDWARD L. REINHARDT
PRESIDENT
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Carferine Jakan Catherine Sakato

DATED: October 10, 2002